

Dr. Welch's position in the scientific world needs no comment. He is always a pleasant and an instructive talker, and possesses to a high degree that faculty of all great men, the ability to discuss abstract scientific problems in simple, commonplace English. Among the physicians from out of town in attendance at the lectures the following were noted: Drs. W. J. G. Dawson, Napa; William T. Lucas, Santa Maria; F. C. E. Mattison, Pasadena; James G. Baird, Riverside; George F. Reinhardt, Berkeley; O. D. Hamlin, Oakland and Oscar J. Kendall, Riverside.

A full report of the examinations held in Los Angeles in July, and in San Francisco in August, will be found on page 283 of **JULY-AUGUST EXAMINATIONS.** This number of the JOURNAL. It will be seen that the general average of successful and unsuccessful candidates remains about constant. In the two recent examinations, .6309% passed, and .3691% failed to pass or were "conditioned"; some of the conditioned have doubtless subsequently passed. As time goes by and rejected candidates return for re-examination, there is grave danger that the board may be weakened by establishing a very bad precedent and allowing some persons who have come before it a number of times, to be "marked up," and thus "pass." If such a step is once taken, it opens a field for other steps that in the end will entirely destroy the strength of the law. We do not know that any such thing has been or will be done by the board, but the danger must be recognized and guarded against.

The JOURNAL is trying its very best to do the right thing by everyone interested and to succeed.

WE NEED YOUR HELP. The policy adopted by your Publication Committee two years ago has been formally approved by the Society in convention. So long as there shall be a document known as the "Principles of Ethics," dealing with the subject of secret remedies, your Society publications will live up to it and refuse to promote nostrums by advertising them. Sometimes it takes a good deal of study to determine the right course of action, and no little strength to stick to it. The work of your Publication Committee and your editor is by no means light. Will you not help us as much as you can? Will you not help us by helping those who are helping us? The concerns which advertise with us are good and reliable; they tell the truth about their products and their preparations are to be depended upon and are reliable, to the very best of our knowledge and belief. Please patronize those who help us by advertising worthy goods in our clean pages, and thus endorse the stand which we have taken. Let them feel that you recognize a bond of friendly fellowship in this effort to do the right thing and hold to the decent course. If you have dealings

with them let them know that you are a member of the Society, receive its JOURNAL and appreciate the fact that they advertise in it. If you meet a representative of one of our advertisers tell him that you heartily support the action of your Society and approve the course of your JOURNAL and appreciate the endorsement of it which his house gives by advertising with us. You have no idea how every thing of that sort counts; it tends to establish and maintain a closer friendly feeling that counts for much in this world of business. If there is no choice between the output of two houses, one of which advertises with us, use the goods of that house and let the other house know about it. So can you help and help very greatly in carrying out the difficult task that has been set before your Council in the business administration of the Society. Please do not forget this request but act upon it. You are but working for your own Society and your own JOURNAL.

Bulletin 84 of the Bureau of Chemistry is the first document to be issued under a recent law granting authority to the Department of Agriculture to investigate food adulteration, etc.

BORIC ACID PRESERVATIVES. It reports the investigations of Dr. Wiley upon the action of boric acid and borax on the human economy. The experiments carried on were exceedingly valuable, and the deductions well within the proper conservatism. The whole report is too long to reprint or to fully comment on, but the summary of the conclusions is well worth the careful consideration of every sanitarian:

While many of the individual data obtained are contradictory, the general results of the investigation secured by combining into single expressions all the data relating to each particular problem studied show in a convincing way that even in doses not exceeding half a gram ($7\frac{1}{2}$ grains) a day boric acid and borax equivalent thereto are prejudicial when consumed for a long time. It is undoubtedly true that no patent effects may be produced in persons of good health by the occasional use of preservatives of this kind in small quantities, but the young, the debilitated, and the sick must not be forgotten and the safe rule to follow is to exclude these preservatives from foods for general consumption.

IS THE DRUGGIST AT FAULT?

"Anent the comments of the CALIFORNIA STATE JOURNAL OF MEDICINE (May) on 'Druggist Ethics,' quoted elsewhere, we must indorse the position taken. 'Que messieurs les assassins commencent!' If our friends, the physicians, will return to the original prescription the druggist will be only too glad to second their efforts and shelve the commercialism. The druggist has no desire to be simply a middleman for the manufacturers of proprietary articles, and would be glad to employ his skill in the preparation of prescriptions p. r. n., where brains are needed and their exercise paid for."—*American Druggist*.

In Germany prayer healing has become such a fad that pharmacopelas of prayers have been published, different prayers being carefully designated for different diseases and conditions.—*Journal A. M. A.*